

# POINT 3

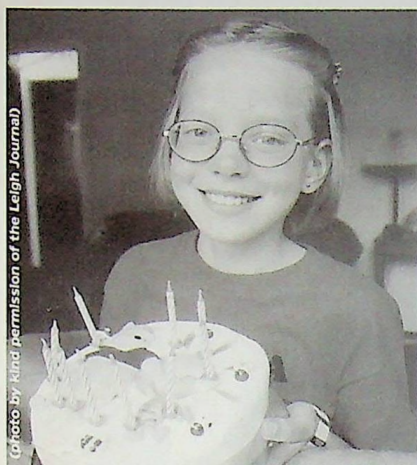
THE TOC H MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 1999



Bringing people together

## HELP FOR CHERNOBYL CHILDREN



*Svetlana Papsouev, one of the group, celebrating her 11th birthday while staying at Barbara Priestman's home*

### Toc H in Leigh show what a small branch can do.

If you are a child from the Chernobyl-polluted air of Chernobyl, one month's holiday here in the U.K. can improve your immune system so much that it can extend your life by some two years. That was one of the stark facts that Brian Sheeran, Chairman of Toc H in Leigh, Lancs, read in an article about a charity called Medicine and Chernobyl, and which made the seven members of the Branch respond.

The outcome was that the Branch assisted the local Medicine and Chernobyl (Culcheth Group) with finance and practical aid, to enable them to bring over a group of nine children, aged 5-14 years, together with an interpreter. The children came from the village of Sokolnichi, in an area that received more than 70% of the fall-out after the Chernobyl disaster. Five of them come from an orphanage, where conditions are terribly deprived. Barbara Priestman, who started the local Medicine and Chernobyl Group, and is the prime mover in the holiday scheme, said: 'They come over here for a full month - but all they

have got is a carrier bag each.' The Branch's contribution was £1,000, from branch funds raised in past years, and an additional sum of £700 raised through a special garden party, 'T' shirt sales, bric-a-brac stalls and a coffee morning.

The holiday was very much a community event, and Barbara Priestman paid tribute to the generosity. Local children donated toys, and the visitors stayed with local families. They came together each day for trips and activities, which included visiting Chester Zoo, Sea-World in Birmingham, and enjoying a day's horse riding. At the end of the holiday a farewell disco was held at Leigh Cricket Club. The children, host families, friends and some branch members came together in a fond farewell. Members were delighted to see how well and happy the children looked. There was a lot of laughter, tears and hugs.

This venture was a break with the past for Leigh Branch. Previously, their annual projects have always been local. They have helped local groups in Leigh and the surrounding district, both young and old, with holidays. But guess what their project will be next year?



*Branch Members hand over the £1,000*

### Toc H

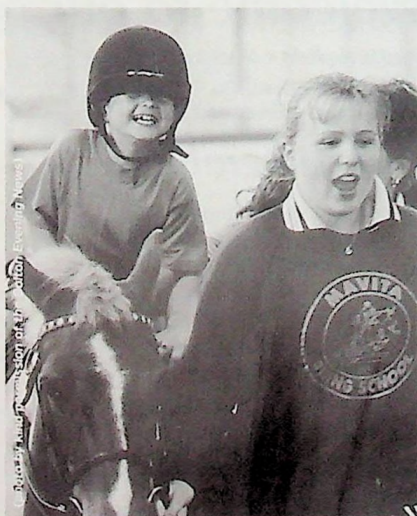
Toc H is about people. Founded in 1915, Toc H works to break down barriers between people by challenging their prejudices about others and the divisions which exist in society. Its work is based on Christian principles, and people of all faiths, and of none, are welcomed.

Toc H works with people from all walks of life, tackling social problems, such as loneliness and deprivation, through an approach which emphasises self-help, and encourages people to accept responsibility for themselves and their local community. Toc H uses the model of the compass to offer four personal challenges which are the inspiration for its members.

These 'Four Points of the Compass' are set out on page 2.

Our Vision is of a Movement  
'Building better communities by reaching out to all in friendship and service, confronting prejudice, and practising Christian values'.

Toc H is a registered charity No 211042.



*Young Nicol enjoying horse-riding, even though he cannot see where he is going.*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

**B99: A contribution for Peace?**

**Toc H 'Not Monopoly Race' report**

**News of Staff reductions**

**Talbot House in 1945.**



## SALUTE TO JESUS

The Rev Jack Harrison, formerly Toc H Finance Secretary, has published a book in which he highlights, and enlarges upon, certain key passages in the Old and New Testaments. This is an unequivocal defence of the Christian Faith which Jack feels might well help members understand 'The Will of God' as revealed in the prophets and Jesus Christ. A copy of the book is available via the Editor if anyone wishes to have a brief pre-view - and, if there is enough interest, Jack will donate 100 copies to Toc H, to be sold on at £6 each to help Toc H funds.

If you wish to explore this, please contact the Editor.

## AN APOLOGY

On page 5 of our last issue a photocaption refers to Terry Brown, and this should, of course, have been Terry Gray! We apologise to both. Amazing how the Editor of a black-and-white publication still manages to get his colours confused! Perhaps it is as well it is not a full-colour magazine! We shall be on our guard whenever we have to mention Joyce Green or Hazel Scarlett in future!

### The Four Points of the Compass are:

1. Friendship - 'To Love Widely' - to welcome all in friendship,
2. Service - 'To Build Bravely' - to give personal service.
3. Fairmindedness - 'To Think Fairly' - to listen always to the views of others and to find one's own convictions.
4. The Kingdom of God - 'To Witness Humbly' - to acknowledge the spiritual nature of man, to practise the Christian way of life, and to help the truth to prevail.

Point 3 is the magazine of Toc H. It takes its name from the 3rd Point of the Toc H Compass, 'Fairmindedness'. It seeks to inform, to encourage and to stimulate.  
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Next copy deadline: 12th November 1999.

A full copy of the current editorial policy is available on request from the Editor.

The opinions expressed are those of the individual concerned and not necessarily the views of the Editor or of Toc H.

While Point 3 is made available to all members free of charge, voluntary contributions are welcome.

The Editors reserve the right to cut or précis articles and letters submitted unless the writer specifically stipulates otherwise.

*Printed on chlorine-free, environmentally friendly paper.*

## STOP PRESS - STAFF REDUNDANCIES

At its meeting in early September, the CEC ended some months of uncertainty about the future staffing shape of Toc H. To achieve a more balanced budget, and thereby sustain a working future, the CEC decided that some further staff redundancies were essential.

At Central Services we now say goodbye to John Matthews, Pat Phillips, Janet Meacham and Joy Bradshaw. This leaves a team of three full-time people (Margaret Winstanley, Angela Gregory and Sally Courtney) and four part-time (Tony McMullen, Julie Murray, Hazel Scarlett and Michael Tomlinson). There will be some additions to, or alterations of, job briefs to cover any gaps. They will, of course, be joined by a new Director in due course.

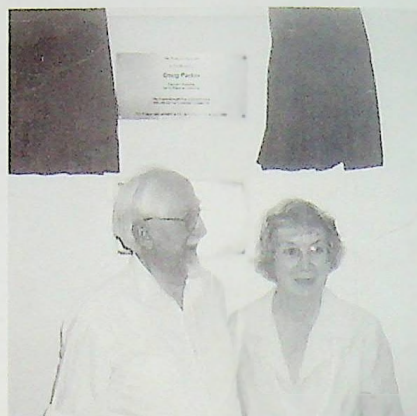
For the 'core-funded' staff in the field, the criterion for selection has been 'Last in, first out'. Excluding Tom Elliott (who retires in December) and Jo Whiteside (who deals with a specific area of development with Families under Pressure) this means that we shall lose Tom Berry, Barry Englefield and Stuart Wroe. There will no longer be a specific fund raising or chaplaincy role, but all field officers will be expected to cover all aspects of development.

The CEC expresses its appreciation and thanks to all staff for trying to continue working in a positive way during this difficult period, for taking part in consultations, and for giving views and ideas on possible ways

forward to help solve the difficulties Toc H faces.

We say farewell to all who are leaving us. We thank them all very gratefully for their contribution and their friendship. We wish them all well in the future.

We also say farewell, and thanks, to Trudie Charles, who has moved to Bristol and therefore has to leave the East London 'Families under Pressure' project. She has been replaced by Maggie Gittleston, whom we warmly welcome.



Toc H Chairman, Peter Ellis, with Sheila Parker after the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the devoted work of Doug Parker in the creation of the Toc H Rickmansworth Activity Centre. This was unveiled during the Open Day in August, which was a happy and well supported event.

## Welcome to our New Members

Paul Wingfield - Buckingham  
Ralph Watkins - Cirencester  
Rita Muter - Elmstead

Shirley Watson - Gorleston  
William Buglass - Long Eaton  
Robert Walters - Mid East Region.

## Guest Members

Mark Heseltine; Pamela Moody - Mid East Region  
Katherine Roberts; Sejal Shah - North East Region  
Dawn Bassett, Jeni Brown, Adel Byrne, Shaun Cassidy, Alan Douglas, Joanna Grant, Brendan Gribben, Lisa Murphy, Declan O'Hagan, Hazel Oldershaw, Christopher Simmonson - North Wales and North West Region  
Hisami Shibaike - Southern Region

Bianca Anthon, Ike Biedermann, Kylie Hunter, Katharine Jubermann, Rebecca Slagle, Gary Upstone, Joyce van der Engel, Zabina Siewierska-Wozniac - South East Region  
Barbara Davis, Veronica Hobbs, Sonya Naish - South West Region  
Rachael Cook, Alison Davies, Robert Haslam, Catrin Lewis, Sioned Moffett, Gloria Morgan, Dawn Pargeter - West Midlands and South Wales Region

Welcome to 40 New Members



# B99 : A CONTRIBUTION FOR PEACE?

**A**n Kestier, Central Councillor from Poperinge, gives her impressions of a genuinely unique event that took place in July, in Belgium.

Two years ago, nobody would ever have thought this event would happen. It all started at Central Council when we had a brainstorming session on how to improve relations between Talbot House and Toc H. Stuart Wroe came up with the idea of a Cameo at Talbot House, thus confirming its role as a centre of peace and reconciliation. Who can resist a challenge like that? Not me...

Stuart and I were quite nervous when we were waiting for the Irish group to come out of the gate at the airport. The event had turned out to be a Northern Irish Peace Project. We would mix

Belgians, British people and youngsters from both North and South of Ireland, Catholic and Protestant. The luggage just about fitted into the minibus; all the volunteers had to sit really close, nearly on each others laps, on the way to Poperinge. When one of them handed us a cassette and everyone started singing their lungs out, we knew this would be one hell of a project!

The Irish walk on Sunday broke the ice. While walking we got in touch with a lot of different people, got to know each other a bit and talked about bits and pieces as people do when they first meet. We listened to the Last Post at the Pool of Peace; a very touching place certainly after we had heard what happened there during the First World War. And we finished in an Irish pub! They sure felt at home there, especially after a few pints of Guinness. Later that evening we had a little service in the Upper Room that made us see in perspective why we were all together. You could feel so much goodwill and respect in that room it really made us all silent for a time.

Monday and Tuesday were dedicated to community work. We had arranged with the town council to build a fence

round a piece of grassland that would eventually become an educational garden for school use. Two volunteers from the council helped and steered us. One of them, Achiel, urged us to come back again next year. He had the time of his life with 'them Irish', even if he couldn't understand them that well - a problem we shared with him!

By Tuesday night some issues arose. Nothing you could put your finger on but nevertheless we had to get the group working together as a group again. The Irish evening did wonders! The group invited some 50 local guests - sponsors, helpers, Toc H members - for a party in the Concert Hall. It isn't fully restored yet but with the necessary safety precautions (we put some 10 fire

extinguishers down) we managed. The group had to work together to make a little ceremony, and to organise food, beverages and music ambience. They did so well. Achiel and his companion just could not stop talking about it. I even learned some Irish folkdancing.

The tour of the Salient on Thursday proved to be very powerful, too powerful sometimes. But this too needed a place in the scheme.

Emotions can sometimes be a chain and often something as powerful as this is needed to break down the barriers and let them free. We all learned a lot that day.

Bruges proved a complete contrast. All the high-swept emotions of the day before were calmed and eased in the bright sunshine on the 'Minnewater'. A nice day to relax and get ourselves together again. It finished in style with a barbecue organised by Tubby's Poperinge Group and adorned by the lovely piano playing and singing of Jeanne Batthieu.

Yes, we did cry when we hugged everybody goodbye. And we promised to keep in touch and to do this all over again! This is not the end; it's just the beginning.



## The B99 Aim

The Aim of those who planned B99 was to create... 'A practical and cutting-edge real-life reconciliation project bringing together young people from communities in conflict in Northern Ireland. Working and living together, the young people may explore the divisions in their communities, and confront the prejudices and intolerance that cause them'.

## Thanks

The B99 project was run in partnership with the National Council of YMCAs of Ireland, in Belfast. Thanks to Bill Fleming and Nichola Lynagh of the NCYMCAs.



# TALBOT HOUSE - 1945

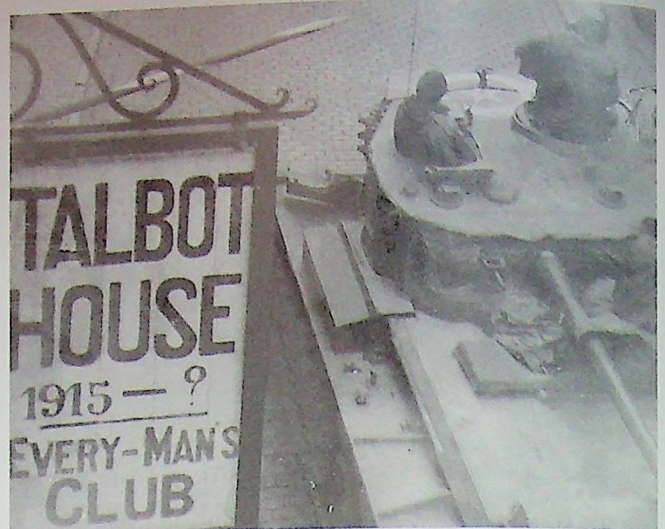
**I**n January 1945 Iolo Lewis was a 22-year-old tank crew member in the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment.

During the advance towards the Rhine, they had some time in West Flanders for refitting. Iolo is now President of the Welwyn Garden City Branch of the Royal British Legion. He writes...

We were all billeted with the good folk of Poperinge as we awaited new tanks, and were very grateful to Talbot House for its welcome, calm and comfort.

The Rev 'Tubby' Clayton was in charge there. He would proudly show us round this famous building and especially the little chapel in the roof-space. It was so beautiful, with its shining wood and little altar, and oozed sadness with the memory of thousands of World War I soldiers who had been there on rest from the front line at nearby Ypres.

Our regiment was not long in Poperinge, but I remember Tubby as a gentle, kindly man. We heard later that he put up casualty information relating to



A 'Comet' Tank of the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment passes Talbot House in January 1945.

our regiment for the benefit of the good people of Poperinge who had welcomed us into their homes. The 11th Armoured Division, of which we were part, fought from Normandy to the Danish border, taking 10,000 casualties, but the survivors never forgot Talbot House, nor the Rev Tubby Clayton.

## and 'ON A JOURNEY OF REDISCOVERY' 1999

**B**arry Broadmeadow was part of a North Wales and North Western Regional trip to Talbot House in the Spring. We print here some extracts from his reflections on that experience...

I often wondered about the purpose of a pilgrimage. When I got back from Belgium I realised that I had been on a pilgrimage of the modern sort. We were not unlike the Canterbury Tales characters. We were diverse, had colourful backgrounds and everyone had a story. The journey to Poperinge gave us an opportunity to converse, or just relax, and indeed was just as important as arriving.

The quest was, for some, to find the meaning of Toc H, and the focal point was Talbot House. In the process of visiting cemeteries we

compared our emotions and experiences. Some of the older branch members had never been before, and it was also the first visit for members from Families under Pressure. We also had members from Friendship Circles. Although we all had greatly differing life experiences, and perhaps differing expectations, we got on very well and quickly made new friendships. It gave me much to think about.

There were moving and sad moments as the graves of relatives were found or just the sheer enormity of the loss of lives in The Great War. Not least was a visit to Polygon Wood where Mike Lyddiard's ashes had been scattered a few days before. Yet another poignant landmark.

We witnessed an impressive service at the Menin Gate, which included a

piper playing a lament, and the British Legion formed a guard of honour for a wreath-laying ceremony as a band played moving music. On our last evening we had a service in the Upper Room, led by Terry Brown, and many of us read pieces of poetry, including one by Mike Lyddiard.

I was glad I went to rediscover the Salient, but what was more important were the friendships that were so warm and considerate. When we take the trouble to listen with the sympathy that is so necessary, then Toc H is more than a symbol. We may not be perfect, but both the laughter and the tears become the living testimony that we care about each other. We need each other to try to make Tubby's vision live on and to show the world our spirit of compassion and Christian love.



# The Toc H 'Not Monopoly' Race

**O**n 17th July a number of teams rushed round London during the 'Not Monopoly' Race.

Stephanie Roch, who convened the team that won the race in a time of 3 hours, 46 minutes and 51 seconds, describes the event from a competitor's point of view...

No-one really knows who suggested it, but we did it - Judy Farrell, Kevin Vigers and me. We visited, and photographed, twenty-six sites around London, against the clock. The fourth member of our team opted for a week in Malaysia instead of running round London on a boiling hot Saturday in the middle of the tourist season (no accounting for taste!). As we were from Wolverhampton, Sussex and Sheffield, our knowledge of London



was real Monopoly-board stuff, but we got our heads together the night before, and looked at maps, the list of sites and a tube map, and planned a route. Next day we completely ignored it!

Armed with instructions, a travel card, a camera and boundless energy, we set off. The camera stayed the course, the instructions and travel card got tatty and the boundless energy got lost after a couple of sites. We walked, we ran, we jumped on and off buses, up and down stairs to tube lines (Covent Garden has three million steps and we walked every one of them!), posing for photos to prove we had visited the required sites. The sun beat down all day, the general public got in the way (who let them out?), one station was closed, the tube maps looked like electric circuits, but we battled on.

The photos tell the tale; at the beginning smiling faces, upright bodies. Then, as the race progressed, grimaces and leaning posture. We reached the final site, The Tower of London, and decided that we would run the last few yards to the Finish. Well, the spirit was willing but the flesh was decidedly weak and we had to drag ourselves forward in a final sprint. And guess what? - we were the first team home. A long time afterwards (does that sound like gloating?... 'cos we really did) all the other teams were home and we were declared winners. We got a genuine flatiron to share as a trophy and genuine aching limbs to remember the race by. Looking back, it was fun, it was a new experience, and a lot of money (just over £2000 - Editor) was

raised for Toc H. If it is on again next year, the organisers should consider having a bottle waiting at the finish - no, not bubbly, just Radox!

## THE COMPETITION

Alongside the Race there was a Competition to estimate the time the winning team might take. The winning ticket numbers and winners were:-

1st	380	M.Scarlett, Gorleston
2nd	3500	K.Cockerton, Buckingham
3rd	1062	K.Jennings, Boscombe
4th	2427	F.Goulty, Uxbridge
5th	3291	K.Horsford, Luton.

The organisers wish to thank all who helped by selling and/or buying tickets.

## IN BRIEF • IN BRIEF

The Ladies of **PARKHURST BRANCH** on the Isle of Wight ran a Friendship Day on June 19th. From this they sent a £500 cheque to the Khasdobir project in Bangladesh, and a further £100 to their local hospice.

In May the **NORTH WEST AND NORTH WALES REGION** held a Get-together in the Botanic Gardens in Southport. Fine weather and the beautiful gardens made a perfect setting for picnic lunch. Members came from as far afield as Colwyn Bay, Crewe and Great Harwood. Those present heard presentations from Jenny Carlon (now Jenny Banks) and Jo Whiteside about the Families under Pressure schemes in Winsford and Runcorn, from the Rev Nick Fawcett and from Stuart Wroe, who told of exciting developments in Division 1.



Members and helpers of the **CHILTERN HILLS BRANCH**, The Toc H SHOP in Wendover and the

Wendover Action Group held a big farewell lunch to say goodbye, and thanks to John and Nancy Kilburn. John and Nancy have now moved to North Yorkshire. After his stint as General Secretary of Toc H, John was the prime mover in starting Chiltern Hills Branch. Together with Nancy and a few of their key members, the Toc H shop was then successfully launched. Later, WAG was set up, which now operates (among other projects) a Community Car. The photo, taken at the gathering (and reproduced by kind permission of The Bucks Herald), shows John and Nancy on the right, with the car.



A team of Toc H volunteers joined the 'Ingleborough Trek' in June. A long day's walking and climbing raised £578. Twenty per cent of this goes to the organisers, Wheatfields Hospice in Leeds, and the balance is for Toc H.

The photo shows the Toc H team at the start.



## After B99

(see page 3 article - Editor)

Conflict within communities is not going to be solved overnight or by just one Toc H project. I am committed, on a voluntary basis, to practical reconciliation working with and through young people - who are the future of any community. There are many practical follow-up actions arising from the project. This is just the beginning. There is at least one joint project being organised for Northern Ireland next year by an English and Irish B99 volunteer and plans built on the B99 success and learning are being considered at a follow-up residential in Omagh. There are also outline plans already under way for similar projects in Poland and Yugoslavia. The CEC have endorsed research for funders to develop this cutting edge initiative for Toc H

**Stuart Wroe**

*Secretary, STROTGW Branch, Skipton.*

## Visit to Talbot House a Highlight

Annette and I were shocked to learn of Mike Lyddiard's untimely passing while we were still in Mexico. Subsequently, when I received the April edition of Point 3, we read of the impact the Old House in Poperinge had made on him since he became Director. Having never been to Poperinge, we wondered just what was there, both at Talbot House and in Flanders generally, which could have had such an impact on him. As we headed home to British Columbia in early May, following eight months in the orphanage here, we took a side trip to Europe. We visited Flanders and many

of the World War One cemeteries, which moved us beyond words. Then a quick visit to Poperinge and an opportunity to see for ourselves what it is all about. It was one of the highlights of our 34 years of married life together and we were almost speechless as we toured the house and read the guide. Now I can understand just what Mike must have felt when he first came into contact with the birthplace of the movement. It is an experience we will never forget.

**Bob Mason**  
*Sonora, Mexico*

## I'm Perplexed

I am perplexed by the article "An Island of Peace" in the August issue of Point 3. I have read and reread the article several times but I am still left with the following impressions. The article purports to be about a Toc H working project but it reads like a report on a leisurely holiday devoted to meditation. Indeed paragraph 6 creates the notion that the purpose of the project, to paint doors, is an irksome intrusion. If a prospective financial supporter of Toc H projects read the article would he/she have misgivings about the commitment of volunteers? I have no doubt that Delyth gained from her Toc H experience but I did wonder if there had been any other comments about this piece.

**Jack Hopton**  
*Alvechurch, Birmingham*

## Millennium Quiz

May we thank all the branches and individual members of Toc H who have

responded so enthusiastically and generously to our Millennium Quiz appeal. We have been so encouraged by the heart-warming response which our mailing has created. Branch quiz nights have always had an appeal, which is now proving very useful!

Following the initial printing we have acquired a reprint, so further copies of the quiz are available and the closing date for returns is still a long way off on December 17. So there is still plenty of time to tease out the answers. We will be communicating with the winners early in the New Year and announcing the grand total raised towards the Toc H Lindridge Barn Appeal.

**John Edwards**  
*High Acre, 23 Stonehouse Lane  
Combe Down, Bath BA2 5DW*

## Thanks for the Specs

I have been overwhelmed by receiving two large cardboard boxes containing 254 pairs of spectacles from North Walsham branch. These, I know, are collected by many members. May I thank you all? The spectacles will be graded by our Council for the Blind and then distributed by five Landrovers, which visit the rural villages. Can you imagine the joy on people's faces as their vision improves, especially as to buy a pair out here costs several thousand dollars. Please keep up your good work. I also receive parcels of jumpers from Sheffield branch. These go to children whose mothers die in childbirth.

**Thelma Bryan**  
*Harare, Zimbabwe*

# TRIBUTES

**MOLLY OXENFORD**, who died in August, joined Toc H in the early '40s when with the Land Army in Somerset. After the War her work included school matron and gardening, before 10 years on the Toc H staff, in East Anglia and the North East, before retirement. Then home again to Worthing where her hobbies included wild life, walking, music and watercolour painting. She used her car to ferry people to hospital or country drives for housebound people. She held various offices for Toc H W.Sussex. A deep Christian faith was the foundation of her life. Truly a life for thanksgiving to God. **RR**

**JOHN CHEW**, of Bedford Branch, was not only a good branch chairman but a good friend to members, and to many other people in the community. He was a key person in the successful appeal for a Scanner for Bedford's South Wing Hospital. He certainly kept his light shining

to others and was, above all, a good Christian man. He will be sadly missed by Toc H in Bedford. **GH**

**TINA MCDONALD**, of Coupar Angus Branch, was a member for over 40 years and active until ill health prevented her attending meetings three years ago. She will be sadly missed as members were always turning to her for advice. **MJ**

**EDWINA JONES**, of Somerton Branch, who died in June, joined Toc H in the early '70s. She soon became Secretary and remained so until her death. Probably best known for her work in the Church, and also her entertainment and social evenings with so many associations, she will be sadly missed in the community as well as in Toc H. **JH**

**EDNA DAWSON**, who died in July after a long illness, bravely borne, was Secretary

of Bournemouth and Christchurch Branch from its inauguration until 1988, when she took over the Chair. She was always the 'main pin', and took great interest in Toc H and Khasdobir. The Branch will miss her greatly.

**STANLEY DAVIES** was a long serving and most loyal member of Llandrindod Wells Branch. He moved there when Builth Wells Branch closed, and participated fully for many years. We give thanks for a great life of service. **SJ**

**GEOFFREY BARNES**, of Rochdale Men's Branch, was an extremely enthusiastic and willing worker ever since he joined Toc H in 1959. His loss will also be gravely felt by the three ladies' branches in Rochdale who regarded him with the greatest respect and affection for his work over the many years of association. **BS**



# OBITUARIES

In July:

Nora Cullen  
Stanley Davies  
Lily Mison  
Joan Roberts  
Robert Stewart

Melton Mowbray  
Llandrindod Wells  
EC and Tower Hill  
Luton  
Melton Mowbray

In August:

Bettie Booker  
Stewart Guthrie

Solihull  
Selkirk

Christina McDonald  
Molly Oxenford

In September:

Albert Aldridge  
Geoffrey Barnes  
Marjorie Robertson

Not previously recorded:

Olive Spours  
Albert Wye

Coupar Angus  
SE Region

Bournemouth & Christchurch  
Rochdale  
Bournemouth & Christchurch

Saltburn  
NE Norfolk.

## FISHERS OF MEN

**T**he following address was given by their padre to the Wyre Forest Branch, at their annual Rededication Service. We felt it deserved a wider reading.

**Matthew 4-19: 'I will make you fishers of men.'**

Jesus was speaking to two fishermen, Peter and Andrew when he said those words, but the group of people who joined the other two, and were trained to become fishers of men, were a mixed bunch. We had four fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James and John; a civil servant, Matthew; a trades union official, or its equivalent, Simon the Zealot; and Nathaniel who was probably a farmer as he was found sitting under a fig tree, not by the waterside. We are told nothing about the occupation of the others, but they must have been a mixed bunch.

So then, Jesus did not just want men with funny collars to do his work, he wanted everyone. Nineteen hundred years later Tubby Clayton used the same words to call people to the service of Toc H.

What is there peculiar about fishermen? Notice Jesus did not say, "I will make you anglers of men". An angler sits in one place and tries to entice the fish to come and take his bait. The initiative has to be with the fish. If we sit in a club room and offer the bait of an attractive programme, we may catch an odd fish or two, but there will be many who swim away.

Another thing to notice is that the fishermen work in teams. You need someone to direct the boat, you need men to work the winches and you need men to handle the nets. You need a team, working together with a single aim.

A vital part of the fisherman's equipment is the boat. This is our faith, the thing that keeps our work afloat. Without this sure foundation nothing could be done. But the boat is not something that a fisherman takes for granted. He is continually examining it, and checking to see that there are no leaks. If there are faults, they must be repaired. In the same way, we cannot take our faith for granted. It is something that must be worked on.

The fisherman fishes with a net, not a line, for one very good reason. The net brings in all the fish, none escape. It is not selective. So then, we in Toc H should be out to catch everyone, the shape and size do not matter.

The fisherman does not have an easy life. Frequently

there are storms, These have to be endured - they are all part of the job.

Our way through life, and our work for Toc H, will not be a smooth rose-petalled path. We shall be on stormy waters, with difficulties to overcome, but with a sound boat and a good team we can come through.

Sometimes the net breaks and some fish escape. What does the fisherman do but mend the net and try again. Following any fishing boat there is always a crowd of gulls, looking for the opportunity to collect one of the hard-won fish. The fisherman accepts that there will be losses, but that does not affect his main aim, to bring the rest of the catch safely ashore. We must not be discouraged if we lose one or two, but we must not leave the hatches open, so that the whole catch is lost.

The question now to be asked is, "Are our members fishers of men? If not, why not?"



The Sensory Garden at **BRIXWORTH COUNTRY PARK** (see our June edition, page 5) was officially opened on June 9th by The Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, Lady Juliet Townsend. Our picture shows relatives of Margaret Wilkins sitting on one of two seats overlooking the garden which commemorate Margaret Wilkins and Freda Wilson. The Gazebo in the background is to be thatched later in the year when more Northamptonshire thatch is available.



# NOTICE BOARD

## SAVE MONEY AND DONATE ££s TO TOC H

MCIS, Toc H's insurance brokers, can help members and supporters of Toc H to save money on the cost of their annual premiums for home, car, pet or travel insurance - and at the same time help Toc H as well. Every premium paid by a Toc H supporter automatically generates a donation to Toc H - with this donation being made each time the policy is renewed.

As well as offering very competitive premiums, all the products provided by MCIS are non-discriminatory and have been specially developed to provide cover appropriate to the lifestyles of people with and without a disability. For example, their home insurance policy provides, at no extra cost, for:-

- Employment of Carers/Personal Assistants
- Wheelchairs and powerchairs
- Office equipment at home
- Specialist disability equipment

For more information or a quotation to see how much you could save, call **Mark Griffiths** on **0121-233 2722** or fax **0121-233 0405**

## STAMPS STILL NEEDED

Tony Cock (SE Region Secretary) still needs used stamps, which he can turn into much needed money for Toc H.

BUT, please note:-

- a) He does not need definitives (i.e the normal ones, with the Queen's head on) as these are of no value. All others welcome - British or foreign
- b) Please do NOT post them - as this can cost as much as Tony recovers! Please wait until you have a big pile and then get them to Tony by hand, via your Councillor (at Central Council), a member of staff or through Wendover.
- c) Please do not tear the stamps from the envelope, but cut them so as to leave between a quarter and half an inch all round, to protect the perforation, and please do NOT soak them off. Torn stamps, or stamps with damaged perforation, are of no value.

Thank you.



## NEW DIRECTOR

The post of Director is being advertised by TMPMSL, an agency based in Leeds. For details contact **Martin Kearney** on **0113 2206401** Ref **W/F 585**.

DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

## COLSTERDALE OPEN DAY

Saturday 9th October 99 12.00noon to 4.00pm  
12.30 Lunch 3.00 Charity Auction

Please bring something for the Charity Auction in aid of the Colsterdale Building Fund

Further details from **Keith Crocker**  
(Warden) **01765 - 689382**



## UNDER-16 MEMBERSHIP

Under-16 membership is now available. Please apply for application forms from the Membership Secretary at Central Services, Wendover.

## CHRISTMAS AT LINDRIDGE

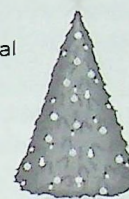
Spending Christmas on your own this year?

Why not join **Trudie Charles** and **Daphne Dawes** at Lindridge House, (Kingsteignton) and share in traditional Christmas festivities?

Toc H Lindridge has been booked from 24th to 27th December, inclusive. Cost approx £65 each.

NOTE: We have extended the time so that tickets for a pantomime may be booked and any difficulties of travelling on a Bank Holiday may be eased. A shorter break is possible.

For details write to **Daphne Dawes**, 338 Bath Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS 31 1TQ. tel: **01225 873022**.



## CHRISTMAS CARDS

Four designs, 2 Robins and 2 Religious  
Size 3.5 x 5.5 inches

5 Cards in pack - Cost £1.50 per pack (inc p/p)

Order and Cheques (payable to Toc H) to:-

**Michael Tomlinson**, Central Services, Wendover.

## CAROLS IN LONDON

The South East region invite ALL members and friends to the last Toc H Christmas celebration of this millennium on Saturday 11th December 1999  
World Chain of Light - at St Olave's Church, Tower Hill at 11.00pm

Lunch (£5) at the Ensign Club at 1.00pm  
Carol Service, at All Hallows, at 2.30pm (with silver collection).

For more details and/or to book your lunch write/contact **Jean Whiteman**, 24 Summerhill Grange, Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 1RQ tel: **01444 - 441664**